

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Eau Claire is 12<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin – Annual Health Rankings Report**

**Eau Claire, WI – March 26, 2014**—The fifth annual County Health Rankings has been released showing that in 2014 Eau Claire County ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in health outcomes (how healthy we are) and 14<sup>th</sup> in health factors (how healthy we can be in the future). The Rankings provide a snapshot of the health of the county and show us how health is influenced by many things including our everyday surroundings—where we live, learn, work, and play.

The factors in Eau Claire that are an area of concern and need continued improvement included: physical environment (air pollution, severe housing problems, driving alone to work), health behaviors (adult obesity, physical inactivity, excessive drinking) and quality of life (people who report poor physical or mental health days). Compared to other counties, Eau Claire ranked high in the area of clinical care (percentage of population uninsured, ratio of population to primary care physicians, dentists and mental health providers).

Published online at [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org), the Rankings help counties understand what influences how healthy residents are and how long they will live. The Rankings look at a variety of measures that affect health such as the rate of people dying before age 75, high school graduation rates, unemployment, limited access to healthy foods, air pollution levels, income, and rates of smoking, obesity and teen births.

“Healthy people in a healthy Eau Claire can make an enormous difference to our businesses, our schools, and our community as a whole. Last year *Eau Claire Healthy Communities*, a collaborative council working on preventive health issues, formed new Action Teams to address chronic disease, alcohol misuse, and mental health. The Rankings show us that collaborative efforts around these health issues are critical.” said Lieske Giese, Director/Health Officer of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, *Eau Claire Healthy Communities* will again gather community members to celebrate success and collectively think about how we all can partner together to make a difference in our community around these health priorities. For more information about *Eau Claire Healthy Communities* and the celebration, please visit [www.ehealthycommunities.org](http://www.ehealthycommunities.org).

If you would like more information on the County Health Rankings report, please go to:  
[www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)

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